

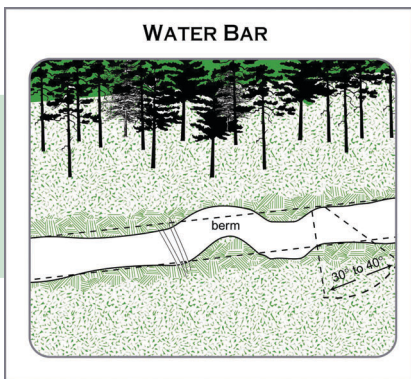
# Skid Trails

## Skid Trails

- Use existing trails if they provide the best long-term access. Consider relocating existing trails if both access and environmental impact can be improved.
- Consider the topography in the location of skid trails and avoid steep slopes whenever possible.
- Where possible, keep bladed or dozed skid trail grades to less than 25%. Where steep grades are unavoidable, frequent grade breaks are recommended. Install drainage structures and use soil stabilization practices where needed to minimize runoff and erosion.
- Overland or dispersed skidding on steep slopes should not exceed 35% or when bare soil areas provide potential for channelized flow.
- Skid trails should be located outside the Streamside Management Zone.
- Any skid trail that must cross a perennial stream, intermittent stream, or drainage ditch should use a bridge or culvert of acceptable design (see Stream Crossing Section). *Logs shall not be dragged through an intermittent or perennial stream at any time.*
- Layout skid trails to use low-value trees as “bumper trees” at turns to reduce residual tree damage.

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- Install water turnouts 25 feet prior to a stream crossing to direct surface runoff into undisturbed areas of the SMZ.
- A brush mat of logging slash can be used to stabilize skid trails on stream crossing approaches. This alleviates rutting and firms up the running surface.
- Rutting should be avoided whenever possible and especially where it causes channelized erosion. If rutting is unavoidable, concentrated skidding may be used to reduce the amount of disturbance, *but in no instance may channelized erosion be allowed to direct sediment into a stream channel.*



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- Upon completion of skidding activity, water bars should be installed immediately in areas subject to erosion.

<b>Table 4 Water Bar Spacing</b>	
<b>Road Grade (percent)</b>	<b>Distance Between Water Bars (feet)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>35</b>

# Skid Trails

- Watch the weather forecast and plan ahead for severe storms.
- All woods roads and skid trails should be repaired, smoothed and seeded after logging, and be left in a stable condition to resist erosion.

